



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**



**EASTERN VIRGINIA RIVERS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX
Presquile and James River National Wildlife Refuges**

Annual Activity Report, Fiscal Year 2007

A. HIGHLIGHTS

B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

C. LAND ACQUISITION

1. Fee Title

February 20: A concerted group of conservation partners joined the US Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss interest and potential avenues for FWS acquisition of the Blair's Wharf property (a 125-acre private in-holding within the James River National Wildlife Refuge). Mr. Thomas Innes, realtor for the property, was in attendance to answer questions and convey the level of interest and under what conditions his client (Mr. George Harrison, owner of Blair's Wharf) was willing to sell.

Attendees:

Tom Innes, George Harrison's Realtor for the Blair's Wharf property
Aimee Weldon, National Audubon Society
Joseph McCauley, Eastern VA Rivers NWR Complex
Kathy Owens, Eastern VA Rivers NWR Complex
Cyrus Brame, Eastern VA Rivers NWR Complex
Luther Vick, Eastern VA Rivers NWR Complex
Bill Street, James River Association
Joel Dunn, Conservation Fund
Reggie Hall, Conservation Fund

The two hour meeting and site visit was extremely productive. Mr. McCauley discussed how competitive it is to obtain monies in VA from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). He went on to say that the efforts to acquire land is somewhat arduous and time consuming. Therefore, he would not pursue the project unless the seller was cognizant of this and willing to be flexible in working with the involved partners. Mr. Innes indicated that his client was supportive of maintaining the natural character of Blair's Wharf and that

acquisition by the James River National Wildlife Refuge would fit his desires. Mr. Hall discussed strategies to encourage tax credits and other options to help "make the numbers work".

It appears that the LWCF projects will be discussed in Congress next week. Mr. Dunn has lobbied in Washington for the John Smith National Water Trail and said he would make some contacts to support the Audubon's LWCF nomination. It is presumed National Audubon Society has lobbyists that will do the same, however, Ms. Weldon did not know the contacts.

2. Easement

3. Other

November (various days): ORP Brame coordinated with Audubon's Aimee Weldon, EVRNWRC Biologist Spencer and EVRNWR PL McCauley to complete a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant request. The request is for 3 million dollars to acquire a 125 acre tract on the James River. The parcel is one of two in-holding of James River NWR. Application was sent November 22nd. See attachment ?.

D. PLANNING

1. Master Plan

2. Management Plans

3. Public Participation

March 2: ORP Brame received a letter from Congressman Randy Forbes stating that he recently joined the Congressional Wildlife Caucus. He joins a bipartisan group of over 100 members of Congress whose goal is to effectively represent the wildlife refuges in their districts (in this case, Congressman Forbes represents Presquile NWR).

4. Compliance with Environmental and Cultural Resource Mandates

October 2-6: State Archeologist Michael Barber and a team of 14 professional and volunteer archeologists conducted research at the Maycocks Point study site of James River NWR.



January 31: ORP Brame worked on the Request for Cultural Resource Services form for the proposed Well Repair at Presquile NWR.

March 21: ORP Brame sent soil sample images to Region 5 Cultural Resources Director, John Wilson. The pictures depict the soil makeup for the area around a proposed Well Repair project at Presquile NWR.

March 26: ORP Brame was called by Shelly Height of the Region 5 Cultural Resources Division to inform him that the previously sent soil samples were reviewed and showed that test pit(s) will be required by a archeologist. These test pit(s) will be conduct by Ms. Height and refuge staff in April.

5. Research and Investigations-

October 16 & 19: University of Richmond Biology Professor, Dr. John Hayden continued basic plant inventory with student assistant, Patricia "Trish" Byrne, at Presquile NWR. FWS Staff provided transportation to the island. In the coming months a comprehensive list will be produced and provided to ORP Brame.

January 2: ORP Brame received a draft copy of the Presquile NWR Plant List from Dr. Hayden. SEE Attachment ?

December 17: ORP Brame led three members of the Richmond Audubon Society on a trip to and around Presquile NWR for the annual Hopewell, VA Christmas Bird Count (a comprehensive bird count essentially encompassing a fifteen mile radius around Curles Neck and Presquile). The unseasonably warm day provided for a comfortable survey, conducted largely on land but also from the USFWS's Boston whaler. Waterfowl were abundant. SEE ATTACHMENT?

6. Other

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel

February 13- Barry Brady, long-time Refuge Manager for Presquile and James River, retired and was given a retirement party in Hadley, Mass. EVRNWRC assistant manager, Kathy Owens attended the party and provided images and other momentos related to his 13 years in Virginia. Brady had been working for the FWS Regional Office for a number of years.

March 6- MM Luther Vick began his 40th year working with Presquile National Wildlife Refuge

March 14- The 104th anniversary of the Refuge System. It also served as an appropriate stage to highlight Luther's 40th year with the Service. Mr. Vick, Mr. Darlington, Ms. Lipchak (former admin. assistant for Presquile), and ORP Brame visited a local restaurant to celebrate. Sitting at the table, there was 131 years of FWS experience between Vick (40 yrs), Darlington (45 yrs), Ms. Lipchak (37 yrs), and Brame (9).



March 6-8: ORP Brame took the National Conservation Training Center's WLD 2125 Habitat Management Planning course. This was an online course and will help prepare Brame for necessary work regarding the Comprehensive Conservation Plan- scheduled to begin in 2008 at Presquile NWR and James River NWR.

2. Youth Programs

3. Other Manpower Programs

4. Volunteer Program

October (see Habitat Mgmt. #6)

November 2: Volunteer Michael Larken contributed 5 hours of service in work on the James River Check Station.

November 6: Volunteer Buddy Jones contributed 5 hours helping to clear Maycocks Road at James River NWR.

November (numerous dates) Volunteer Dave McCoy contributed 8 hours helping with the James River NWR hunt.

November 13: Volunteer Sargent Martin (on leave from Iraq) and family came to help plant trees at Presquile NWR. Unfortunately, the James River was unusually high and the event was not conducted. ORP Brame did show and interpret wildlife to the family –including a bald eagle.

November 17: ORP Brame completed the annual volunteer report and forwarded it to Regional Volunteer Coordinator, Julie Study. See attachement ?

January 29: Volunteer Michael Larkin helped with administrative assistance in the Refuge's Charles City office. Mr. Larking volunteered 4 hours of service.

February 5: ORP Brame held a conference call with representatives from the James River Association, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and the Audubon Society to discuss a planned volunteer appreciation event involving all refuge (James River and Presquile) volunteers, but in particular those that participated in the Presquile tree planting project. ACB's Leslie Middleton will submit a grant proposal on the various organizations behalf. The proposed grant will be used to rent a portojon, buy food, trees and planting materials. The event is scheduled for May 12th at Presquile NWR.

February 14: Several members of the James River Association volunteered their time to help straighten tree tubes and secure trees at Presquile NWR. The team of four worked for three hours- equaling 12 hours of service.

February 21: Anne Wright and Cathy Veverette of Virginia Commonwealth University helped coordinate a box building with Charles City County school district. The group of over twenty people constructed over 60 protonotary warbler boxes for use at Presquile NWR.

February 27: ORP Brame met with Fran Leike and Bob Reid (both representing the Appalacian Trail Club) to discuss the upcoming Volunteer Day at James River NWR. Brame toured the two along a tree fallen and littered trail to Powells Creek. Leike wanted to see the site prior to her groups visit on March 3.

March 3- Eleven volunteers dedicated part of their day to help beautify a James River NWR trail to Powells Creek. During the half-day event, there were significant accomplishments:

- Nearly a mile of trail was cleared of laying and overhead natural debris;

- A pick-up truck load of non-recyclable trash was collected and placed in the dumpster;
- A trailer-load of recyclable metal was collected and will be taken to the recycling plant in Hopewell;
- Dangerous snags were removed from the main entrance road area;
- The old hunt shack was prepared for demolition;
- A lot of pie and stew was consumed

The eleven volunteers donated approximately 6 hours of service...equating to 66 volunteer hours.



March 24: ORP Brame and MM Vick coordinated twelve volunteers in a successful volunteer workday at Presquile National Wildlife Refuge. The group had been given a beautiful day and the team responded. Here is a list of our accomplishments:

- 50 trees planted (40 in the ground, 10 in pots)
- Two large interpretation signs erected (one a volunteer appreciation sign and the other about wildlife observation)
- Over one mile of fencing removed (barbed wire and woven metal mesh)
- Two buildings power washed (for the first time in five years)
- Copula installed on the Visitor Contact Station

In addition, the group also got to see some diverse wildlife: a 30 lb. catfish, a 3-foot black snake, baby rabbits, deer, and numerous birds (including osprey and eagles).



Participants of the Presquile NWR volunteer day. Photo: FWS

May 12- To celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, particularly as related to the Presquile NWR Tree Planting Project, a volunteer picnic was held on the island. Approximately 40 people attended. The fun-filled afternoon included a boat tour, nature hikes, food, and even an opportunity to plant and inspect a few more trees.

September 29- Girl Scout Troop 707 and Boy Scout Troop 562 assisted Refuge staff at James River NWR to participate in the annual National Public Lands Day event. The day included a trail clean-up, planting native shrubs, painting gates, and sign installation. Additionally, construction of an interpretive kiosk was undertaken as part of an Eagle Scout project. Following the work day, local volunteer Naturalist, Michael Larkin led a group of scouts on a nature hike along Powells Creek. Posters and other environmental education materials were distributed.



Girl Scouts painting fencing during NPLD. Photo: FWS

5. Funding

6. Safety

7. Technical Assistance

8. Other

November 29: ORP Brame and MM Vick traveled to Rappahannock NWR for a general staff meeting in the Wilna Office.

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

1. General

2. Wetlands

4. Croplands

5. Grasslands

6. Other Habitats

October 3, 4, 21, 30- Staff and volunteers continued the large-scale planting project at Presquile NWR. Approximately 1500 native plants were placed by over 100 volunteers along a 200 foot wide riparian buffer on the west side of the island. The purpose for the project is to develop a wildlife corridor, combat invasive grasses, stabilize soil along the shoreline, encourage roosting opportunities for eagles/osprey, and improve water quality.

November 7- ORP Brame and MM Vick met with VCU rep. Ed Crawford and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Leslie Middleton to discuss the maintenance and monitoring plan for the recently completed Presquile planting project.

February 20- ORP Brame met with Joe Rossetti of the VA Department of Forestry (office located two miles from Flowerdew Hundred Road) to provide an orientational tour of the James River NWR. Rossetti is fairly new to the position and was anxious to learn more and potentially partners with the service on various projects (invasive species control, education, and fire management).

7. Grazing

9. Fire Management-

January 8-22 – ORP Brame developed burn plan for a small prescribed burn to occur at James River NWR in the recently thinned loblolly pine forest along Route 640. Fire Coordinator Tim Craig of Dismal Swamp prompted the plan. It is currently under review by

staff at Rappahanock NWR. A late winter burn is proposed.

February 7- ORP Brame participated in the annual fire refresher training in Colonial Heights, VA. The day-long training was sponsored by the USFWS Dismal Swamp Fire Division, Virginia Natural Heritage (DCR), and the Nature Conservancy. Approximately 23 students participated. After the training, ORP Brame joined several members of the Nature Conservancy to participate in the annual Pack Test (to complete two miles in 30 minutes with a 25lb. pack). Brame passed the test with a speed of 28 minutes.

February 27- ORP Brame, members of the USFWS Dismal Swamp Fire Division and Virginia Natural Heritage (DCR) cut fire lines and cleared dirt roads at James River NWR in preparation for a 30 acre burn. Approximately one mile of line was cleared using hand removal and light tractor.

March 30- Greg ? from the Virginia Natural Heritage (DCR) came to help clear the fire lane along Clay Hill Path for an upcoming prescribed burn at James River NWR.

10. Pest Control-

11. Water Rights

G. WILDLIFE

1. General

February 16- Presquile NWR requested volunteers to participate in the Audubon Society's Great Backyard Bird Count. Although the high winds and below freezing temperatures precluded the group from visiting the island, the group did bird from the cable ferry, attached to the mainland. In an hour and a half, five non-staff persons were in attendance and observed the following species:

Canada Goose - 20
Double-crested Cormorant - 1
Bald Eagle - 6
Northern Harrier - 1
Red-tailed Hawk - 1
American Kestrel - 1
Merlin - 1
Ring-billed Gull - 100
Great Black-backed Gull - 1
Mourning Dove - 25
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 1
American Crow - 2
Carolina Chickadee - 3
Carolina Wren - 1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1
European Starling - 30
Song Sparrow - 1
Northern Cardinal - 4

February 17- James River NWR staff requested volunteers to participate in the Audubon Society's Great Backyard Bird Count. As described by Lewis Barnett, Chair, Dept. of Math & CS, U. of Richmond, VA and member of the Richmond Audubon Society "Seven hardy

birders including trip leaders Caroline Coe and Julie Kacmarcik enjoyed a brisk but relatively quiet morning at James River National Wildlife Refuge, counting birds for the Great Backyard Bird Count. The swamp just off of Route 10 is proving a reliable spot for Red-headed Woodpeckers; two were found today, along with Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser. Other high spots were a Barred Owl who perched patiently for us, though the perch was a bit far from the road and obscured by trees for good viewing; and a mature Bald Eagle. We also ran into several very cooperative Hermit Thrushes, in addition to the usual suspects. The complete trip list appears below."

Locality: James River National Wildlife Refuge, VA Observation Date:

FEB 17, 2007 Start Time: 8:00 AM Total Birding Time: 3 hours 15 minutes Party Size: 7

Number of Species: 25

Wood Duck - 3	Hooded Merganser - 2	Great Blue Heron - 1	Black Vulture - 3
Turkey Vulture - 2	Bald Eagle - 1	Ring-billed Gull - 1	Barred Owl - 1
Red-headed Woodpecker - 2	Red-bellied Woodpecker - 1	Downy Woodpecker - 2	
Northern Flicker - 1	Pileated Woodpecker - 1	Blue Jay - 2	American Crow - 1
Carolina Chickadee - 1	Tufted Titmouse - 2	White-breasted Nuthatch - 1	
Brown Creeper - 1	Carolina Wren - 1	Hermit Thrush - 3	European Starling - 24
Song Sparrow - 1	White-throated Sparrow - 18	Northern Cardinal - 2	

2. Threatened and/or Endangered Species

Feb. 6th: ORP Brame met with Sandy Spencer, EVRNWRC Biologist , and a representative from the Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries at James River NWR. The purpose of the meeting was investigate the habitat type where a fox squirrel was reportedly observed by a deer hunter earlier in the year. Although the fox squirrel is not Federally protected, it is a species of State concern. The DGIF representative thought that the habitat may suite some fox squirrels, but they prefer a slightly more open forest. He proposed placing squirrel nest boxes along fines road to determine if fox squirrels do indeed use this portion of the refuge.

3. Waterfowl

4. Marsh and Water Birds

5. Shorebrids, Gulls, Terns and Allied Species

6. Raptors

March 21:ORP Brame was called by Bob Russo, staffer at Flowerdew Hundred Plantation, to report the observation of an "injured eagle". I drove to the bird, located in what is called the "Beaver Dam" of the Southeastern portion of the plantation. It turned out the eagle was an osprey. The bird was sitting below a large electrical tower which held an active osprey nest. The osprey appeared to have a broken wing, because it did not fly and minimally flapped it's left wing. Using a box, Brame captured the bird. He then coordinated with a local raptor rehabilitator in Powhatan to meet me in Chester to drop off the bird (see attached photo).



March 22: ORP Brame reported that x-rays and a full health assessment, by animal rehabilitator Amber Kimmich of Area Rehabers Club (ARC) in Powhatan, showed the osprey to have extensive injuries. Although the wing was not broken, the collar bone was. Numerous fractures indicate the bone was shattered from a devastating impact. That impact pushed the collar bone into the chest and causes internal injuries. Yesterday morning the bird was spitting up blood and was put down later that afternoon. How the injuries occurred is still a mystery.

Reptiles

March 20: ORP Brame took Dr. Joy Ware, VCU professor and another VCU representative to Presquile NWR to place eleven metal sheets in various locations. The purpose for the sheets is to attract snakes. Dr. Ware and a group of VCU graduate students will return in April to conduct a snake inventory.

8. Game Animals

H. PUBLIC USE

1. General

November 30: ORP Brame participated in the Regional Visitor Services conference call.

January 19: ORP Brame purchased a plastic display cover for the bald Eagle Mount. The funds were provided through the NFWF Audubon Friends Grant.

January 16-30: ORP Brame promoted the Draft Compatibility Determination for Research among the area papers. See Draft.

March 1: ORP Brame participated in the quarterly FWS Region 5 Visitor Services conference call.

2. Outdoor Classrooms – Students

February 26: ORP Brame met with Mike Kendrick and Bill Street of the James River Association at their Mechanicsville office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a grant application sponsored by the US Forest Service. The grant is promoting projects that help get children outdoors and learning about nature. JRA felt, and Brame agrees, that the grant would fit nicely into a partnership at Presquile. During the meeting, details of the application were discussed. The proposal may include some extended stay visits on the island with underserved and non-traditional groups. JRA will be in charge of coordinating and managing the groups. Deadline for submission is March 15th.

March 16: ORP Brame received a dead Barred Owl from Audubon member Sue Ridd. Brame will attempt to find funding to get the bird mounted for educational purposes.

3. Outdoor Classrooms – Teachers

4. Interpretive Foot Trails

December 2- The Richmond Audubon Society conducted a nature hike at James River NWR. Twenty participants enjoyed the late all jaunt down the trails of Maycocks.

January 11- Photographer and volunteer Joe Ellis and his guest joined MM Vick and ORP Brame on a trip to Presquile. The purpose of the event was to walk the trails and photograph wildlife.

February 10- Joshua Gifford and a guest were given authorization for the day to participate in wildlife observation on the Hunter Circle Trail at James River NWR.

February 27- Neil Price and his wife were given authorization for the day to participate in wildlife observation on the Hunter Circle Trail at James River NWR.

March 3- Ted Sweetland and his wife were given authorization for the day to participate in wildlife observation and Photography along Maycocks trail at James River NWR.

March 10 & 11- Tony Horsley (804-513-7744, anthonyhorsley@hotmail.com) and a friend (Craig Davis) were given authorization to enter, via foot, the Hunter Circle Road to participate in wildlife observation and photography at James River NWR.

5. Interpretive Tour Routes

6. Interpretive Exhibits/Demonstrations



7. Other Interpretative Programs

October 5- ORP Brame of James River NWR joined VA Highway Archeologist, Tony Opperman, Flowerdew Hundred Archeologist, Karen Shriver, and VA Archeologist, Michael Barber in promoting Archeology month at Flowerdew Museum. The public was invited to view powerpoint presentations, exhibits related to Maycocks point, and displays. Approximately 20 people participated in the partner event.

October 23- Henriette Galan (209 Leewood Dr. Lynchburg, VA 24503, 434-385-8022) visited Presquile NWR with her family in search of geneology information and Turkey Island. ORP Brame and MM Vick interpreted known history and allowed them to visit the cemetery.

January 10: ORP Brame conducted a presentation to 70 members of the New Virginians Ladies Club. Brame led a 40 minute PowerPoint presentation at the Meadowbrook Country Club in Richmond. See Picture.



February 5- ORP Brame met with the Planning team for Chesterfield 2007 (a multi-organizational group promoting the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown). The purpose of Brame's attendance was to participate in discussions involving proposed events for the Bermuda Hundred Historic District (which includes Presquile NWR). Brame has been in contact with several of the planning team members (Brenda Briggs and Cornelia Owens Goode) in hopes of combining tentative Refuge events with Chesterfield 2007 events. The meeting took place at the Chesterfield Historic Society's Castlewood office. Plans are still developing but moving forward.

March 5- ORP Brame again met with the Planning team for Chesterfield 2007.

March 26- ORP Brame met with the Planning team for Chesterfield 2007 at the Ferry Landing in Bermuda Hundred Historic District (across from Presquile NWR). The group of 15 members hope to use some portions of the Philip Morris property for an upcoming event in May and September. Philip Morris has been contacted regarding possible use.

8. Hunting-

October 7-21: Archery Season at James River NWR. Thirteen people received Refuge permits. All but one registered for the entire archery hunt season. Hunter participation days equaled fifty-six. Four deer were harvested...three buck, one doe.

October 22-28: Persons interested in hunting James River NWR for muzzleloader and shotgun season were allowed to scout.

October 27 & 28: For selected hunters of the Presquile NWR deer hunt, scout dates were provided.

October 29- Two individuals were provided permission to enter James River NWR and Presquile NWR respectively for scouting purposes.

November 4 & 11- The annual muzzleloader deer season took place at James River NWR. Thirty-nine hunters participated and 5 deer were harvested.

November 20, 22, & 25- The annual shotgun deer season took place at Presquile River NWR. A total of seventy-four hunters were provided permits for the hunts. In an effort to reduce administration on staff, no harvest data was collected.

November 18, 22, 24 & 30- The annual shotgun deer season took place at James River NWR. One hundred and thirty-seven hunters participated and 14 deer were harvested.

See hunt plan, Attachment ?

January 12: The annual hunt meeting was held at Rappahannock NWR to discuss the past hunt season and establish changes for the upcoming year. The items that are to change for next year include:

- Add the words "boat required" on all Presquile Deer Hunt literature.
- Allow Presquile deer hunter lottery winners to bring one unnamed guest. Each guest would have to sign the hunt conditions form and carry it with them on the selected hunt day.
- Allow the James River NWR Archery dates to be expanded to 19 days and utilize Cyberdata to select the 25 applicants. Additionally, all segments of the refuge would be permitted for the archery hunt. Previously, there were closed area boundaries.
- Change the James River NWR Shotgun/Muzzleloader conditions form to state that during muzzleloader season archery equipment can be used as long as the hunter is elevated 10 feet.

January 19: ORP Brame met with Mack Walls and John Randolph of the Dept. of Game and inland Fisheries at Hog Island WMA. The purpose of the visit was to talk about deer management activities in Prince George County and hand deliver the 2006 James River NWR deer check cards.

January 26: ORP Brame mailed the jaw bones from the 2006 James River NWR hunt to Hog Island WMA.

9. Fishing

11. Wildlife Observation-

17. Law Enforcement

November 8: A criminal incident that occurred between 4:30 PM 11/07/06 and 7:30 AM 11/08/06 at James River National Wildlife Refuge.

Upon arrival to work morning, MM Vick found that the primary "Best" lock on the entrance gate was missing. The gate was closed and the chain was placed around the gates to give

the impression that they were locked. MM Vick proceeded to the maintenance shed and found that a chainsaw, tool box, and volt meter were taken from his truck. He also noticed that a battery charger was removed from the shed. Cost of loss items appear to be in the \$1,500 range. No building damage or other vandalism was noticed. Neither building was entered or appeared to have been tampered with.

Officer Milazzo of the Prince George County Police Department was notified and arrived at the scene (as did I) around 8:45 AM. He completed a report and provided us with Reference # 2006-1108-0002.

November 9: ORP Brame completed a FWS Incident Report and faxed it to Virginia Zone Officer, Joe Mojica.

November 15: MM Vick noticed the lock on the gate to the old skeet range was missing and the gate opened. He noticed that a vehicle had driven on the grass but no items appeared to be tampered with.

December 4-8: MM Vick and ORP Brame coordinate the installation of a security light on the power pole in the James River NWR lot. Additionally, Minter Electrical was contacted to repair the security light on the Maintenance Shed. Both lights are now working properly and providing illumination in hopes to deter future theft.

December 18: ORP Brame purchased a security lock and motion sensor for use at James River NWR. The entrance gate will have to be modified to allow attachment of the security lock.

December 20-21: During this time, individual(s) opened the entrance gate by using bolt cutters. They proceeded to break the glass in the near side window and entered into the maintenance shed. The individual(s) took a chainsaw (brought from Presquile in the earlier weeks), a reciprocating saw, a shop vacuum, jumper cables, and a spool of metal wire. Fortunately, the pick up truck, pole saw, and weed eater were not taken or disturbed.

Both MM Vick and ORP Brame were on vacation during the incident. As is often the case when on vacation, MM Vick conducted a spot check and found that unlawful entry occurred. He contacted the Prince George County Police Department. Officer Moore completed a police report (#2006-1221-0002).

18. Cooperating Associations

October 20: Presquile NWR, James River NWR, and the Harrison Lake Fish Hatchery were officially named to National Audubon Society's Lower James River Important Bird Areas (IBA). The IBAs 118,000 acres, identified for protection of significant Bald Eagle, Prothonotary Warbler and other high priority species, stretches from just west of Hopewell east to the Surry County line.

A dedication ceremony was held at Presquile NWR. The ceremony was lead by Audubon IBA coordinator for Virginia, Aimee Weldon. Guest speakers included: Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation, Joe McCauley, USFWS/EVRNWR Project Leader, Dickie King, Chairman of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, David Whitehurst, VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, Director of the Wildlife Diversity Division, and Nikki Rovner, State Deputy Director of Natural Resources.

Dr. Charles Blem and Dr. Mitchell Byrd also provide remarks related to their substantial work with Protonotary Warblers and Bald Eagles, respectively.

Several landowners within the IBA were recognized for their environmental contributions. They included: ORP Brame/MM Vick representing the USFWS; Mike Golden, Chesterfield Parks and Rec., Michelle Stolle, Friends of Chesterfield's Riverfront, Tom Thorp, Henrico Parks and Recreation, Charles Blem, Virginia Commonwealth University, David Whitehurst VDGIF, Keith Stigall, Phillip Morris USA

Lastly, volunteers were recognized for their work with the Riparian Buffer Project at Presquile. Amber Foster, James River Association, Leslie Middleton, Alliance of the Chesapeake Bay, Aimee Weldon, Audubon, and Nancy, volunteer, along with USFWS staff were honored for their dedication to the project.



I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

1. New Construction-

2. Rehabilitation-

December 12- ORP Brame contacted Gale Welding (Petersburg, VA) to provide an estimate to repair the 28-foot pontoon boat. The boat has numerous faulty welds and problems

resulting from ware and tare.

December 12- ORP Brame met with a Miss Utility representative who marked electrical wires located around the Presquile NWR pump house. The pump house is located approximately 100 feet behind the residence. The purpose for the markings are part of a larger project to determine the feasibility of digging under the pump house and repairing the well and pump. Presquile has been without water since the early 2000s.

January 9- MM Vick picked up and installed the new glass window in the James River equipment shed. The window was destroyed during the Dec. 20th break-in.

January 16- 30- MM Vick and ORP Brame met with three welding companies to get estimates on the pontoon boat repairs, and James River security needs. Brockwell, Walkers, and Gale Welding all came to asses the project.

February 8- ORP Brame took the 28-foot pontoon boat to get the pontoons refiberglassed and install Keel guards.

March 19: ORP Brame and MM Vick replaced fuel pump on Chevy Flatbed truck at Presquile.

March 22: ORP Brame picked up the 28-foot pontoon boat after fiberglass work was completed and Keel guards installed.

March 26: ORP Brame took the 28-foot pontoon boat to Walker Welding< in Hopewell, to get welding work done on the canapy, siding and seats.

March 27: ORP Brame and MM Vick replaced four sparks plugs on the passenger side of the Chevy Flatbed truck at Presquile.

3. Major Maintenance

October 16- Construction began on repairing the blown-out culvert, located on the upper end of the Hunter Circle Road at James River NWR. A. K Sanford is the contracted agent. The Federal Highway Administration is overseeing the work. The actions in the project are to include raising the pipe to improve water flow, installing a header wall, and replacing the road with appropriate fill materials and geo-textile fabric.

December 12- The Final Inspection was conducted for the culvert project: ERFO-JSR 10(1), Contract No: DTFH71-06-C-00040 at James River National Wildlife Refuge. Nelson Clark, project engineer for the Federal Highway Administration, D.V. Sanford contracted agent from Sanford Brothers, Inc and ORP Brame and MM Vick representing the USFWS attended the meeting. See before and after photos.



March 20: MM Luther Vick and Volunteer Thumon Pelter demolished the “old hunt shack” at the entrance of James River NWR. This building had been approved for demolition by the FWS Region 5 Historic Resources Department (John Wilson, Shelly Height). The dilapidated structure had previously been vandalized and had a collapsed floor. The asbestos siding was removed in prior years.



4. Equipment Utilization and Replacement-

5. Communications Systems
6. Computer Systems
8. Other

J. OTHER ITEMS

1. Cooperative Programs-

November 1 & 3: ORP Brame met with Prince George County Master Gardener President, Bob Foss. Mr. Foss, representing his organization took approximately 500 plastic pots used from the Presquile NWR planting project. He will reuse the pots in upcoming events. This action helps the Refuge from adding the pots to local landfills and reduces waste removal costs. Mr. Foss also provided a support letter for an upcoming James River NWR Challenge Cost Share grant proposal.

December 11: ORP Brame met with Bob Russo, natural resources coordinator at Flowerdew Hundred Museum in Prince George County. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a tour of the Refuge and discuss possible future public use partnerships. Brame discussed the limitations on staff time, but highlighted the Refuge's bounty of nature interpretation possibilities. Mr. Russo was excited about the opportunity to share resources and said he would ask the board of the Flowerdew Hundred Foundation if his services could be used to lead select Museum visitor groups on a nature walk at the refuge.

December 13: ORP Brame received an e-mail from Bob Russo indicating that the Flowerdew Hundred Foundation board rejected the request for establishing a program allowing Flowerdew staff and visitors the opportunity to tour select trails of the James River NWR. Although Mr. Russo was apologetic for his Board's negative response, he stated that he remained interested in developing some sort of public partnership in the future when timing was better. He also appears interested in bringing scouts to the refuge, unrelated to his job at Flowerdew.

December 13: Project Leader McCauley and ORP Brame attended the James River Association board meeting held at the Historic Jamestown Settlement. The purpose of attending the meeting was to discuss the possible partnership between the Association and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The partnership would allow for significant environmental education and interpretation opportunities at Presquile NWR and potentially James River NWR. Some items discussed are allowing overnight study trips to occur on the island, development of a bunk house, live tank display, and canoe launch. If the details of a Memorandum of Agreement can be agreed upon and a feasibility study is positive then the partnership will be cemented. Numerous elements remain to be worked out. Solicitors and archeologist will be weighing in. However, after a brief introduction by Director Bill Street and McCauley, the board seemed in strong agreement to supporting the plans.

January 19: ORP Brame met with members of the VCU Rice Center at the monthly Cooperators meeting. Held in the life sciences building on the VCU campus, an overview of developments at the Rice Center were conveyed. A new 2.5 million dollar building was just announced by Dr. Huff at the meeting. Brame promoted the upcoming internship being advertised for Presquile. He also stayed after the meeting to discuss the protonotary

warbler project at Presquile with Cathy Viverette, Anne Rice, Bob Reilly, and Len Smock. January 25: ORP Brame attended the James River Advisory Council meeting. The meeting was held at Dominion Generation on Tredagar St., along the James River in Richmond. The group of 25 discussed scheduled events and partner opportunities along the James. Brame networked with several of the Council's members after the meeting. As always, there is great interest in Presquile with the membership.

March 9: ORP Brame met with members of the VCU Rice Center as part of the Rice Center Cooperators Group. An update on Atlantic Sturgeon scoots found an old well at Jamestown was aged at 40 years old. Sturgeon today are commonly found to average 9 years of age.

3. Training and Items of Interest